

Amendments to the Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A freestanding candle, in an operable position having a wick
2 supported by a fuel body along a longitudinal wick axis and extending upwardly from a top
3 surface of the fuel body, the candle comprising:
4 (a) a flame-resistant, substantially flat sheet joined to the bottom surface of the fuel
5 body in proximity to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least
6 substantially one inch from the longitudinal axis of the wick; and
7 (b) an upright wick support attached to the sheet and holding the lower end of the
8 wick, the attached support forming a liquid fuel flow barrier separating the lower end
9 of the wick from the fuel body
10 wherein the candle is not contained within a container whereby the sheet prevents the leakage
11 of melted candle wax through the bottom of the candle onto a candle support surface.
- 1 2. (cancelled)
- 1 3. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is sealingly
2 bonded to the sheet.
- 1 4. (original) The candle of claim 3, wherein the sheet has an adhesive backing that bonds to
2 the wick support and the bottom surface of the fuel body.
- 1 5. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the flow barrier is a sealant disposed
2 at least across an opening to a bore extending through the wick support.
- 1 6. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is formed *in situ* unitarily with
2 the wick.

1 7. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent
2 disposed on a surface of the lower end of the wick.

1 8. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent
2 impregnating the lower end of the wick.

1 9. (original) The candle of claim 7 or 8, wherein the wick support is bonded to the sheet by
2 the flame-resistant agent.

1 10. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is a block of solid, flame-
2 resistant material.

1 11. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support extends above the sheet an
2 amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire.

1 12. (original) The candle of claim 11, wherein the amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire
2 is at least about one-half inch.

1 13. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet extends substantially to an outer
2 peripheral surface of the fuel body.

1 14. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a peripheral rim having a
2 thickness greater than the sheet.

1 15. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a flange at an outer boundary.

1 16. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is imbedded within the fuel body.

1 17. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is adhered to the bottom surface of the
2 fuel body.

1 18. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is corrugated.

1 19. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is dome-shaped.

1 20. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel body has multiple wicks.

1 21. (original) The candle of claim 20, wherein each flame-resistant sheet in proximity to each
2 wick extends at least one inch from the longitudinal axis of each wick.

1 22. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is crimped.

1 23. (cancelled)

1 24. (cancelled)

1 25. (withdrawn) A method for more safely burning a freestanding candle fuel body that is not
2 supported in a surrounding container, the method comprising:

3 (a) bonding a flame-resistant sheet to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity
4 to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch from
5 the longitudinal axis of the wick; and

6 (b) burning the fuel body on a support surface which does not have a container
7 surrounding the fuel body.